



Showcasing Excellence

Local authority owned company revolutionises collaborative working to improve buying power



Scape System Build Limited sounds like any other company, but appearances can be deceptive. Owned in equal shares by six local authorities Scape is a unique public sector collaboration that aims to bring economy and efficiency to the construction process. Acting as the trading company for the CLASP Consortium, its construction technology and strategic procurement arrangements will open up new potential for improvements in design, cost, time and process.

CLASP is a local authority consortium that was established in 1957 with the purpose of designing a standard system for schools. It developed refurbishment and strategic procurement arrangements for new buildings to run alongside its system technology. However as a consortium CLASP wished to engage with contractors and consultants on PFI and Building Schools for the Future programmes, taking procurement arrangements to a new level. In 2005, taking advantage of the powers in the LGA 2003, the local authorities addressed this challenge by forming Scape System Build Limited.

As a wholly local authority owned company it is able to act as a Central Purchasing Body for procurement purposes and have a legal personality with which it can trade.

The six local authority partners:

- Derbyshire County Council
- Derby City Council
- Gateshead Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottingham City Council
- Warwickshire County Council

Objectives

The aim of Scape System Build Limited is clear: to provide a robust vehicle with a legal personality that will facilitate local authority collaboration at UK and regional levels.

There are a number of associated objectives:

- To further reduce procurement costs through new build and refurbishment programme frameworks.
- To create a strong bid flow by bringing together programmes of work from a number of authorities.
- To create an environment able to achieve continuous improvement in design, programme time, quality, cost and process.
- To create a lasting cultural change.





Working in collaboration

Scape is in the process of procuring its first two framework agreements, one for larger projects on a national basis, the other for smaller schemes at a regional level. Both will last four years. The procurement exercise demonstrates Scape's collaborative nature.

Step 1:

Scape carried out a consultation process across its network of contacts (including client organisations and contractors) to better understand requirements and gather lessons learnt from similar framework agreements.

Step 2:

Contractors were selected. An OJEU notice and tender documents were prepared by Scape and Nottinghamshire County Council Legal Services, with input from a selection panel comprising representatives from local authorities and the Collaborative Working Centre.

Step 3:

Scape will collaborate with client organisations to enable them to share in the benefits of the strategic procurement arrangements established.

Measuring success

Committed to ensuring continuous improvement in their construction procurement processes, Scape is establishing a series of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which will be used to measure and benchmark progress across all Scape projects.

These will extend across the client, contractor and design team and will cover training provision that Scape considers essential to on-going improvements.

“By setting up Scape we have allowed the CLASP consortium to move forward and participate in ‘Private Finance Initiative’ and ‘Building Schools for the Future’ programmes and improve construction procurement arrangements for many authorities. We believe that by collaborating across the UK and in the region, we can ensure certainty of bid flow and establish robust and achievable methods of performance measurement.”

David Mackness, CEO, Scape System Build Limited



Benefits to date

- Procurement costs have been reduced by 6%.
- Knowledge management systems have reduced costs for the preparation of project production information by 25%.
- Quality improvements have been achieved through refinement of design detailing, for example removing substructure cost.

It remains an option for the client to reinvest cost savings in improved quality.

How does your project measure up?

■ **To share your success please contact:**
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